

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 191704Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4378

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, GT

SUBJECT: US EXPORTS OF LPG TO GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 202410

1. EMBASSY UNABLE CONFIRM ALL OF FACTS PRESENTED REFTEL. THE TWO US FIRMS WHO HAVE REQUESTED INCREASES IN GUATEMALAN SHIPMENTS ARE PROBABLY NORTHERN PROPANE GAS ON BEHALF ITS LOCAL SUBSIDIARY, DIGAS, AND AN UNNAMED JOBBER ON BEHALF MEXICAN OWNED LPG DISTRIBUTION COMPANY HYDROGAS. DIGAS UNTIL 1971 OBTAINED ALL ITS SUPPLIES FROM US THEN SWITCHED TO VENEZUELA. IT NOW SEEKS TO DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCES SUPPLY FOR FEAR VENEZUELA MAY CURTAIL SHIPMENTS IN FUTURE. IT IS THUS NOT SEEKING A ONE TIME INCREASE. HYDROGAS REPOSEDLY SEEKING US SUPPLY DUE TO SCARCITIES IN MEXICO. NEITHER OF TWO FIRMS SEEKING INCREASE THUS COULD BE CALLED "TRADITIONAL" SUPPLIERS.

2. RE REPORTS THAT 2815 CUSTOMERS HAVE GONE WITHOUT GAS SINCE MARCH, 1974, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TO BE MISLEADING STATEMENT. WE CONSULTED WITH US DISTRIBUTORS OF LPG (NOT WITH HYDROGAS) AND WITH TEXACO REFINERY MANAGER. NONE OF THESE SOURCES WAS AWARE OF ANY LPG SHORTAGE. US DISTRIBUTORS ALSO REPORT

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THAT THEY HAVE NOT PICKED UP CLIENTS FROM HYDROGAS; PRESUMABLY,

THEREFORE, THAT COMPANY ALSO IS SUPPLYING ITS CLIENTS' NEEDS.

3. GUATEMALA OBTAINS IT LPG FROM LOCAL TEXACO AND CHEVRON REFINERIES, FROM ESSO REFINERY IN EL SALVADOR, FROM VENEZUELA, FROM MEXICO AND FROM US (THROUGH MEXICO). ONLY MEXICAN SUPPLIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RESTRICTED AND DISTRIBUTORS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHIFT TO OTHER SOURCES. LOCAL REFINERIES, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE NOT CUT BACK PRODUCTION AS IS IMPLIED REFTEL. ANDREWS

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Draft Date: 19 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Film Number: D740263-0983
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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